

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

150. On the 1st April 1886 the Conservator's camp was at Bhanvád on the Násik Gháts, the Divisional Forest Officer of Násik being in company; forests and works were inspected, and the divisional forest office was examined. From Bhanvád the Conservator marched through the Kalvan and Báglán ranges of Násik into the West Khándesh Division. Mr. Mainwaring, the Divisional Forest Officer, met him on the frontier, and after passing through the Nizámpur and Dhulia ranges and inspecting the 2 divisional forest offices of Khándesh, Mr. Greatheed having met the Conservator at Dhulia, the camp marched to Málogaon, Manmád, and on to the eastern districts of the Poona Division, where the bábul reserves in the Bhimthadi Range were inspected. The improvement appearing in the growth in the old and new reserves is remarkable; dense cover has formed over the ground in places where a few years ago the land was quite bare, and there is no doubt that these forest-estates will soon be very much more remunerative properties than they are already. From the valley of the Bhíma the Conservator proceeded to Mahábaleshvar, arriving there on the 14th May, and he returned to head-quarters at Poona for the rainy season on the 14th June.

151. In November the Conservator was out in camp in the Sholápur District with Mr. Millett, the Divisional Forest Officer: the reserves in the Karmála Táluka were visited, and the divisional forest office was examined. The forest vegetation here has come on beautifully, and grass of good quality is growing in abundance upon land which not long ago was bare barren stony "mal." From the Sholápur Division the Conservator marched into the Jámkhed Táluka of Ahmednagar, where Mr. Mainwaring met him. The hills here upon the Nizám's frontier are rapidly becoming forest-clad, trees are asserting themselves among the scrub. From Jámkhed the Conservator was driven into Nagar by a heavy fall of rain lasting some twelve hours, which flooded the country and made the rivers overflow their channels, the diminished capacity of the latter owing to depositions of silt in them rendering them incapable of carrying off the rain-water which the semi-denuded drainage slopes could not restrain and store up; and thus tons of water, which would have benefited the cultivation on the plains could it have been impounded by the hills, returned from the district towards the ocean unused locally, and doing harm by the way. The divisional forest office was inspected. Forests in the Párner and Shrígonda tálukás as well as the forest at Dongargaon were examined, and the Conservator returned by way of the Sirúr Range of the Poona Division to head-quarters for the Christmas vacation.

152. The camp having been sent down by railway to the South Thána District on the 4th January it was established at Chandai. Mr. Hornidge came there shortly afterwards, and the Conservator had a conference with the 2 Divisional Forest Officers of North and South Thána respectively and with Mr. Fry, the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, regarding the working plan arrangements of the forests of the Thána District. The Conservator then went to the Máhim Táluka of North Thána, inspecting with Mr. Wilkins forests in the Máhim, Dáhánu, and Umbargaon ranges.

153. Leaving the Thána District after the 2 divisional forest offices had been examined, the Conservator moved into the Panch Maháls, inspected the Godhra Táluka forests with the Divisional Forest Officer Mr. Keys; met the Collector and the Forest Settlement Officer; examined the divisional forest office, and then went south into the Mándvi Táluka of the Surat Division, where Mr. Gleadow joined him, and travelled with him over the forests of the Mándvi Range. The Collector of Surat, Mr. Mulock, was met, and forest matters were discussed in camp, and the divisional forest office was examined.

154. From the Surat District the Conservator marched up the Tápti vally through Songad to the Navápur forests of West Khándesh, and from there the forest depôt in the Dángs below the Jackriabari was visited, and the Conservator marched through the Pimpalner Táluka of West Khándesh to Mulher, and on the 31st March 1887 his camp was in the Chándor Range.

155. The Divisional Forest Officers generally have worked in a satisfactory manner, and the Conservator would mention the names of Messrs. Wroughton, Mainwaring, Fry, Wilkins, Keys, Millett, W. G. Betham, as deserving special

commendation. Of the Sub-Assistants, Messrs. Madan, Clabby, Mahajan (who has died since the close of the year), Blackwell, Wallinger, and Gaundé have been very active, energetic, and industrious.

156. Of the Range Forest Officers, upon whom devolves the greatest responsibility and very hard work, several have shown again by the highly creditable performance of their duties during the year what valuable public servants they are. The names of forest rangers—

Shaik Abas Shaik Alli,
Hasan Ali Mahomed Ali,
Chimnaji Parashram,
Elahibax Khajbax,
Kashinath Mahiput,
Narayan Sakharam Kharé,
Luxuman Bhiwji Papde,
Waman Gopal Tumné,
Abdul Rasul Khajbax,
Vishnu Mahadeo Tilak,
Govind Ramchandra Taklé,
Balaji Dhondeo Dhekné,
Aminodin Ali Udin,
Ramchandra Rowji Bodhwadkar,
Sitaram Hari Vazé,

have been especially distinguished.

157. The office work demanded of Forest Officers necessitates much attendance at the desk, and gives constant and long employment to a large staff of clerks, for the system of accounts is very elaborate, requiring the submission periodically of numerous returns, forms, and statements. The Conservator is of opinion that simplification of the system is called for, and is possible. It is undesirable that the movements of the Divisional Forest Officer in his district tour of forest inspections should be hampered by the transport of a numerous establishment of clerks and cart-loads of office furniture and records. A change might be made upon the lines that instead of every Divisional Forest Officer having to take with him into the districts on tour a large number of clerks constituting his accounts branch, in order to prepare and submit a set of divisional accounts, there might be one central office of accounts for the whole circle at the headquarters station of the circle, where all the divisional receipts and charges might be embodied into one general cash account for the circle; the Divisional Forest Officers would then forward all their receipted vouchers and chalans with the counterfoils of the cheques issued by them relating to the month, and these documents would in the general accounts office be included in the monthly cash account of the circle.

158. The office establishments have performed their duties in a highly creditable manner, and the following names are specially mentioned:—Messrs. Ganesh Sakharam Hingé, Krishnaji Babaji Phadké, and Antaji Krishna Deshpande in the Conservator's office; Shivrám Bhikaji Rangnekar, Nimbráj Kesheo Chandekar, Trimbak Govind Mahajan, and Trimbak Bhikaji Lawhate in the divisional forest offices.

159. The forest classes in the College of Science contained 2 scholars in the senior and 2 in the junior class. Two men have passed the final examination: one of these has obtained employment in the Cutch State and the other in another Native State. Mr. T. B. Fry, Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, delivered a series of lectures upon forestry at the forest classes.

160. A civil suit, known as the Goema case, brought by one Ranchod Enderjee, a timber-dealer, against the Forest Department in the Surat Division, was decided by the Sessions Judge of Surat in favour of this department. Khan Sahib Dadabhai Nasarvanji Nanavati, Mámledár of Pardi, did excellent service in rendering great assistance to the Government Pleader, Mr. Kavalram Oomidram, who successfully conducted the defence in behalf of the Forest Department, in a very able and satisfactory manner.

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,

Conservator of Forests, N.C.

Poona, 25th October 1887.